



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

## **ICE AGENTS TEAM UP WITH ECUADORIAN NATIONAL POLICE TO CAPTURE FUGITIVE CHILD SEX PREDATOR**

***-- Man Wanted in South Carolina Found Hiding in Ecuador --***

WASHINGTON, D.C. — An individual wanted by police in South Carolina on a range of child sex charges is back in the United States today as a result of a joint investigation by the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Ecuadorian National Police.

Brandon Eugene Jones, age 21, is in custody in Miami after being deported earlier this week from Quito, Ecuador. Federal agents from the ICE Attaché office in Ecuador and officers from the Ecuadorian National Police escorted Jones on the flight to Miami. Jones is scheduled to be transferred to South Carolina soon.

In December 2003, Jones was indicted in Irmo, South Carolina, on several child sex violations involving minor boys under age 11. Two days later, Jones fled to Ecuador, where he began teaching English to young children at a Catholic school in Rio Bamba.

The Irmo Police Department issued an arrest warrant for Jones. After a joint investigative effort by the ICE Attaché and the Ecuadorian National Police, Jones was located in Rio Bamba, Ecuador on August 19. Ecuadorian authorities arrested Jones, a U.S. citizen, for having overstayed his Ecuadorian visa. An immigration judge in Ecuador quickly ordered Jones deported from the country.

"ICE is constantly working cooperatively with law enforcement agencies around the globe to combat sexual crimes against children," said Salvador Briseno, ICE Attaché, in Quito, Ecuador.

"This is an excellent example of how well law enforcement agencies can work together to catch an international criminal," said Andy Blackwell, Chief of Police for the Town of Irmo. "Criminal sexual conduct in the first degree is a violent felony and carries a maximum penalty of not more than 30 years in prison."

Jones will remain in Miami while arrangements are made to transfer him to authorities in Irmo, South Carolina. Jones' arrest is part of Operation Predator, a comprehensive ICE initiative launched in July 2003 to

protect children from child sex tourists, Internet child pornographers, child traffickers, criminal alien sex offenders and other predatory criminals.

Targets of Operation Predator include U.S. citizens/persons suspected of child sex crimes, as well as non-citizens whose child sex crimes render them deportable from the United States. Since the launch of Operation Predator in July 2003, more than 3,800 child sex predators have been arrested nationwide. Additionally, foreign law enforcement authorities have arrested more than 700 individuals based on leads provided by ICE.

# ICE #

*ICE, the primary investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, was established to bring a unified focus to the enforcement of U.S. immigration and customs laws, with the principal goal of preventing violations by terrorists and other criminals who threaten the nation's security.*